

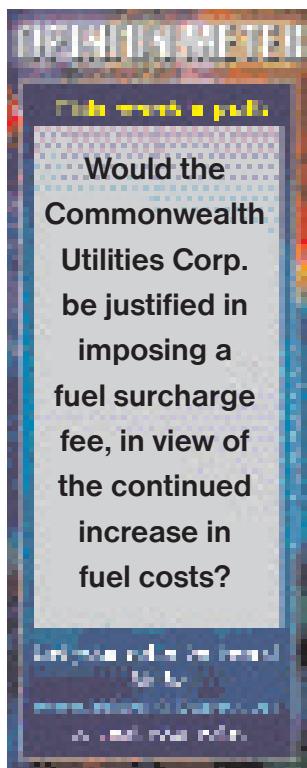
Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

Should the CNMI Legislature be made into a part-time legislature, with lawmakers getting paid only when they attend sessions and committee meetings?

YES-483

NO-34

* as of Monday, Nov. 8, 2004, 3:44:11pm

INSIDE



'Gift That Kept on Giving'

Reflecting on how he delivered President Bush his second term, White House political adviser Karl Rove admitted Sunday that John Kerry's vote for, then against, funding in Iraq and Afghanistan was the "gift that kept on giving."

Page 14



Buried Alive?

Yasser Arafat's wife lashed out at his top lieutenants Monday, accusing them of traveling to Paris with plans to "bury" her husband "alive."

Page 17

Chaba wipes out weevils



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

US Marines of the 1st Division bow their heads during a prayer at their base outside Fallujah, Iraq, Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004. More than 10,000 U.S. troops have taken positions around the rebel-controlled city of Fallujah, bolstering the U.S. Marine units expected to lead a joint Army-Marine assault on the city.

AP

Anti-ivy gourd insects need to be re-introduced

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The insects that were released on Saipan to curb the population of the noxious ivy gourd have been exterminated.

Thousands of weevils vanished after Supertyphoon Chaba unleashed its fury on the islands sometime in August, temporarily halting the campaign to reduce the ivy gourd population on the island. Fortunately the college managed to keep a few, which it is now nurturing for future release.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, agricultural assistant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, said the series of typhoons that hit the islands, especially Chaba, completely wiped out Saipan's weevil population.

See CHABA on Page 12

CNMI responds to global nursing shortage

Second of two parts

By ALDWIN R. FAJARDO
CORRESPONDENT

SAN FRANCISCO—Northern Marianas College president Tony Deleon Guerrero expressed confidence that the Global Education Strategic Initiatives—five gateway nursing programs—will lure international students into the CNMI, especially because ways have been identified to refer the graduates to possible employers in the mainland U.S.

See CNMI on Page 12

Fund to extend HPMR contract to June '05

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees is now considering further extending the contract of Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral to June 2005, admitting that the government remains unprepared for program privatization.

The Fund had initially granted HPMR an extension of up to December 2004 to perform third-party administration services for the Group Health and Life

Insurance program, which the Fund administers. This was later moved to February 2005.

Yesterday, Fund administrator Karl Reyes said the government would ask HPMR to render services up to middle of next year.

"We probably have to extend HPMR again. It looks like we're extending them up to June," he said.

He said this was the recommendation of an in-house committee tasked to handle the privatization program for

the Group Health Life and Insurance Program.

Reyes said the program consultant's work "is only halfway" done.

The Fund earlier projected to see full privatization of the program by March 1, 2005.

Reyes said that the Fund and HPMR



See FUND on Page 12

DLNR chief confirms hiring Hofsneider

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman yesterday confirmed that he is in the process of hiring former Marianas Public Lands Authority commissioner Henry Hofsneider as his special assistant.

"It's very timely for me for him [Hofsneider] to be available,"

See DLNR on Page 12

Local

CUC skirts contempt citation on a technicality

By AGNES E.DONATO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has eluded being held in contempt of court because of a technicality.

In an order issued yesterday, Superior Court judge David Wiseman said CUC's actions concerning its pending lawsuit with the CNMI government are "highly suspect and danger-

ously close to the imposition" of sanctions for contempt of court.

But Wiseman said he has no basis for imposing the sanctions, as nothing in the order issued by the court last August prohibited CUC from continuing to litigate the case.

Wiseman recalled that last Aug. 11, CUC and the CNMI government signed a stipulation that both parties would negotiate in good faith until Dec.

1, 2004. The stipulation also allowed for the extension of a court order restraining CUC from disconnecting electric service to government agencies over unpaid bills.

The judge quoted the stipulation as stating that: "In the period between the execution of this stipulation and Dec. 1, 2004, the parties further agree to negotiate in good faith and to take steps both mutually

and independently to resolve all contested matters without further litigation."

However, Wiseman noted, the order submitted by the parties to the court did not mirror the wording of the stipulation. In particular, the order omits the phrase "the parties agree...without further litigation."

"As such, the court does not have the basis for holding CUC

in contempt for violating a court order [when it filed a motion to dismiss the government's lawsuit]," Wiseman said.

On Oct. 6, CUC asked the court to dismiss the Department of Finance's lawsuit on the grounds that the negotiations have been fruitless.

On Oct. 14, the Attorney General's Office asked the Superior Court to make CUC

explain why it should not be held in contempt for filing the motion to dismiss.

The AGO maintained that CUC violated their agreement by filing the motion "unilaterally and without warning." The government lawyers also denied CUC's claim that the negotiations have not been fruitful and the parties are at an impasse.

CUC explains Kagman water outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. operates 13 water wells in Kagman. These wells pump water to a 50,000 gallon tank and then it is boosted to a 1.0MG tank through three 40hp pumps (two operational and one on standby). Two months ago, the contractor was advised that the pumping rate of one of the pumps has greatly diminished and was asked to repair the problem under the project warranty. The contractor ordered the replacement part after learning that the pump impel-

ler was already worn out.

Last week, the second pump experienced the same problem as Pump 1. With only one pump running now, the demand exceeded the one-pump capacity, resulting in low pressure or no water in elevated areas.

Because of this problem, the contractor ordered replacement impellers for all three pumps. One of the impellers is expected to arrive this week and the remaining two by mid-December. Note that impellers are not

readily available off the shelf but have to be manufactured to individual pump specifications.

To minimize the inconvenience to Kagman residents, CUC installed a water standpipe near the four-way intersection by Santa Soledad where residents can haul water from. In addition, CUC is installing a temporary booster pump (taken from another booster station) to complement the single pump that is currently operating to meet service demand.

TRIPLE J SERVICE
CMYK

GOV PASEO
CMYK

Island Snapshots

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of milestones, weddings, baptisms, and other noteworthy and timely events for these publications. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details for description of the event, identities of the persons in the photo, the date, and the place, the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication, and the size of the picture. Contributors may email their submissions to editor@saipantribune.com. To check if contributions are received, call 223-6337, 223-2448, or 223-4740.

PHI

SHINTANI

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REMINGTON

CARS

October posts slight increase in arrivals

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Fiscal year 2005 kicked off with a slim increase in visitor arrivals, with tourist entries posting a growth rate of 3.97 percent in October as compared with the same month last year.

Marianas Visitors Authority statistics showed that the Northern Marianas received a total of 40,042 tourists last month, a slight increase from the 38,512 visitors that arrived in October 2003.

Surpassing all other markets in terms of growth rate is the United States, which recorded 2,089 arrivals—a 113-percent increase compared with October 2003. MVA attributed the growth to the arrival of the U.S. military ship USS *Frank Cable*, which brought in 1,134 crew-members last Oct. 1.

Arrivals from the China market also rose by 64 percent, compared with the figure in the same period in 2003. MVA said the increase came as a result of the Chinese Golden Week celebration, which took place in the first week of October.

Japan, which is the Northern

Marianas' prime tourism market, generated a total of 28,586 visitors last month. This is a slight 5-percent increase from the 27,125 Japanese tourists that came in October 2003.

The Korea market showed a decline of 42 percent in comparison with the 2003 figures.

MVA said this was partly caused by the high base figure registered in the same period last year. The tourism agency recalled that in October 2003, Asiana Airlines operated seven extra flights to accommodate bulk arrivals coordinated through incentive programs in Korea.

"Despite the decline, the Korean market still maintained its position as the CNMI's second largest visitor market," MVA added.

The Hong Kong and Taipei markets both indicated decrease in their arrivals, dipping by 36 percent and 13 percent respectively.

Yet, MVA expressed optimism that arrivals from Hong Kong and Taipei will pick up, as Continental Airlines begins offering direct flight services from each market to Saipan this month.

Paseo de Marianas formally opens today

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

After almost 10 months of construction, the long-awaited Paseo de Marianas project is finally completed and is all set for its grand opening this evening at the mall site in Garapan.

Project coordinator Bill Wanket of the Department of Public Works and Maeda Pacific Corp. general manager Tom Nielsen both confirmed yesterday that the construction period of the mall project is "complete and ready."

"All the power poles that used to be standing around the area are now gone, all the shelters are up, and we also have water running, and all the power is underground" he said. "Everything is set and ready, and all that's left is turning on the lights [tonight]."

A ceremony is scheduled at 5:30pm today that would include the long-anticipated ribbon-cutting, marking the official opening of the multi-million dollar mall project. Wanket said the ceremony also includes several speakers, among them Gov. Juan N. Babauta, live entertainment, and a raffle drawing. He said various businesses surrounding the area have also donated items for the ceremony.

Also, construction included the renovation of the site police station—koban. The station

includes a closed circuit television that would enable officers to monitor the mall. About six surveillance cameras would be installed around the mall for security purposes.

The mall project, estimated to cost about \$3.31 million, got underway on Jan 13, 2004. It was initially scheduled for completion on Oct. 7, but additional work around the area resulted in the extension of the contract.

The Strategic Economic Development Council first floated the idea of renovating the Garapan area in the late 1990s as part of its tourist-related beautification program.

The mall project is the third phase of the approximately \$25-million Garapan Revitalization Project. The Promenade project, which covers the 3rd Street or Hotel Street, includes the setting up of a lighting system, drinking fountains, covered shelters, and public toilets.

The Revitalization Project aims to transform the downtown Garapan area into an attractive and safe focal point for tourist and resident activities, including strolling, outdoor dining, outdoor musical entertainment, and festivities.

The government said this project would generate at least \$200 million in revenue for the government within the four-year period of the revitalization.



FINGERPRINT TRACKERS

Department of Public Safety personnel pose with chief operating officer Scott Howard of Phoenix Group, supplier of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, after receiving certificates of completion of 40 hours of training on the newly acquired system. Receiving recognition were AFIS Tracker officer in charge Yvonne Tarope, detectives Jerome Bermudes, and John Limes, George David; Thelma Ichihara, and James Rabauliman. Also in photo are DPS acting commissioner Santiago Tudela and Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero, deputy commander of administration for the Criminal Investigation Bureau.

SHAN SEMAN

ROBERT TORRES

PTC

MAEDA
+GREEN



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VETERANS WEEK

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is joined by Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom at the signing of the Veterans Week Proclamation. Major Tom is the deputy commander for Mobility Affairs at the 9th Regional Readiness Company.



LIBERTY DONES

SOUVENIR SHOT

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, right, poses with former Saipan Tribune publisher John del Rosario Saturday, during Fitial's official announcement that he is running anew for the Commonwealth's highest elective post in the November 2005 election.

Woman wanted for alleged theft

A warrant was recently issued for the arrest of 35-year-old woman who reportedly stole over \$12,000 from her employer.

The suspect, Marissa P. Meijia, is being charged with theft by deception and theft/embezzlement.

Documents obtained at the Department of Public Safety indicated that the suspect was employed as an accountant for the past three years with PHILPAN Co., which was appointed to handle collections of monthly rental fees for the Executive Homes Apartments in Gualo Rai.

Upon a review of rental collection records, the company's manager, whose name was not disclosed, discovered overdue unpaid rentals of 29 tenants. The manager verified with the

tenants, only to find out that payments were made to Meijia.

The manager questioned Meijia about the rental fees, and she reportedly admitted taking the money and sending it to the Philippines to assist her family.

Another staff member allegedly informed the manager later that Meijia was preparing to leave Saipan for the Philippines.

Meijia allegedly collected about \$12,107.24 in monthly rental fees from July to November 2004.

The incident was reported on Nov. 2. An arrest warrant signed by Judge David Wiseman was later issued on Nov. 4, with bail set at \$10,000 cash. Wiseman also ordered that Meijia's travel documents be seized. (*Shan Seman*)

More checkpoints this week

The Department of Public Safety Traffic Section announced yesterday that it would conduct sobriety and occupant protection checkpoints this week as part of efforts to deter and detect drunk and intoxicated drivers, as well as ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

According to the Traffic Section, each checkpoint will last an hour and 15 minutes at each location.

The occupancy checkpoints would be conducted this Thursday, Nov. 11, with the first setup along 2W Highway in Tapanag by Top Fashion. The checkpoint will begin at 9:15am and end at 11am.

The second setup will be on

Beach Road Susupe by the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, from 3:30pm to 4:45pm.

DUI sobriety checkpoints will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13, with the first set up on the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose by the Saiblan Building from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

A second checkpoint would be conducted on Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau by Triple J Motors from 10pm to 11:15pm.

The Traffic Section also said that officers would be performing highway criminal interdiction, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdiction, and laser activities.

Traffic Section is required to

conduct a minimum of 12 sobriety checkpoints per year.

Statistics provided by the Traffic Section indicate that 254 DUI arrests were made in the first nine months of this year, majority of which involved males.

Off the 254, over 25 incidents involved motorists under the legal drinking age of 21.

Also, a total of 63 traffic related accidents this year involved motorists driving under the influence.

On average, DPS officers respond to nearly 30 DUI incidents a month.

For more information, contact Rose A. Hocog or Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar at 664-9084/5. (*Shan Seman*)

BOS GROW YOUR MONEY

CMYK

COKE NISSAN

Mendiola nominated as Rota rep in CUC board

By AGNES E. DONATO

REPORTER

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has finally nominated a replacement for Laura Manglona, eight months after she ended her almost 10-year stint as Rota representative to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors.

Babauta nominated Martin Taisacan Mendiola to serve on the CUC board of directors, representing Rota. The nomination now awaits confirmation by the Senate.

The governor informed Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano of the nomination in a Nov. 3 letter, which included Mendiola's resumé and statement of financial interests. Babauta said his office will shortly submit evidence of the nominee's compliance with the mandatory drug screening.

The CUC board has been missing a Rota representative since Manglona's term as board member ended last March 11. This has raised concerns from some CUC board members, who maintained that it is especially crucial for all CUC customers to be represented in the board now that proposed fuel surcharge fee and other crucial issues are on the table.

Only five members are currently serving on the CUC board of directors. They are chair Francisco Q. Guerrero, vice chair Herman P. Sablan, secretary Rufina Miles, treasurer/Tinian representative Allen Perez, and board members Joe Torres and Velma Ann Palacios.

According to his resumé, Mendiola is currently working as budget/federal program coordinator for the Rota Mayor's Office. Among his tasks is to work with

the governor's special assistant for administration in coordinating federal and local emergency relief for the Rota people.

From August 2001 to February 2004, Mendiola served as counselor and academic advisor for the Northern Marianas College campus on Rota. Before that, he served as the Rota mayor's special assistant for projects and administrative officer for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Mendiola worked as special assistant for then Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola Jr. from January 1997 to July 1998, and as researcher for the 6th Rota Municipal Council from December 1996 to January 1997.

He also spent over 15 years working in different schools on Guam, starting as a teacher and working his way up to becoming a principal.

Man on probation faces contempt, other charges

A man is facing contempt and other charges for allegedly committing offenses while on probation, court records showed.

The Attorney General's Office filed criminal charges against Marco S. Fitial, who allegedly burglarized a woman's Saipan dwelling and attempted to steal valuable items from her.

In an amended criminal information filed with the Superior Court yesterday, Assistant Attorney General Grant D. Sanders charged Fitial with a count each of contempt of court, burglary, and attempted theft.

"While on an order of probation and/or an order of bail, [Fitial] committed serious violation

of Commonwealth law, in direct violation of such court order of probation," Sanders stated in the information.

Fitial allegedly burglarized the dwelling of one Delores Manglona last Oct. 22.

Sanders said Fitial rifled through a diaper bag in an apparent attempt to steal something valuable. (*John Ravelo*)

FITIAL PASEO

CIC PASEO

US DISTRICT COURT

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor



SHAN SEMAN

TRAINING THE USERS

Schramm Inc. representative Jon Ifert, not in picture, trains Commonwealth Utilities Corp. staff members and a crew from local well drilling company Alexander Inc. on how to use the new well drilling rig that the Saipan Water Task Force recently acquired from Schramm. The training, held at CUC, lasted three days.

CHABA*From Page 1*

"They just disappeared after the typhoon," Cabrera said.

The weevil, which is scientifically known as *Acythoepus cocciniae*, is a type of beetle that feeds on ivy gourd. The larvae of weevils mine through the leaves, while adult weevils feed on the leaves, producing a "shot-hole" appearance. By defoliating the ivy gourd leaves, weevils weaken the vine's growth ability.

The Department of Land and Natu-

ral Resources saw the need to curb the ivy gourd population, saying that the invasive vine destroys plant life and any other living matter underneath it. An African vine of the melon family Cucurbitaceae, ivy gourd was believed to be smuggled to Saipan in the 1990s, according to the department.

Before the weevils' first release on Saipan in May 2003, the DLNR estimated that the vine already covered about 35 percent of the island's vegetation. The DLNR disclosed then that small patches of the vine were already spotted on Tinian, Rota and even on

this year not to renew HPMR's contract in anticipation of the full privatization of GHLI this year. HPMR's original contract expired last July.

HPMR is the third-party administrator for the health insurance aspect of the Fund's GHLI program.

students, especially those from China, Korea, and the Philippines.

He explained that NMC and Willis Management have identified various possible markets for the five GESI gateway nursing programs, including college-bound high school graduates, healthcare-related professionals, foreign nursing graduates taking NCLEX, licensed and practicing doctors who want to take up nursing as a second profession, and nurse assistants.

Particularly, the five Gateway Nursing Programs seek out the following:

All high school graduates who wish to take the full two-year nursing course without any accreditation of previous courses taken from other colleges/universities under the Gateway 1;

All students who are graduates of another degree, preferably any healthcare-related professions such as Dentistry, Physical Therapy, Medical Technology, Pharmacy, and others under Gateway 2;

All nursing graduates who are eligible to take the RN board exam, NCLEX, and would want to attend review classes to improve the likelihood of success in the examination under Gateway 3;

Sarigan in the Northern Islands.

The DLNR first released weevils last year after securing final approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department then released 75 weevils each in Susupe and Kagman to allow the biocontrol agent to propagate and feed on ivy gourd leaves.

In July last year, the DLNR released on the island another batch of weevils numbering about 300.

Cabrera said the weevils' population grew to thousands before Chaba wiped them out. As the weevil population grew, Cabrera said the CREES

The Babauta administration favors the full privatization of GHLI. In particular, the Executive Branch is pushing for the conversion of GHLI into a private, cafeteria-style health insurance program for government employees and retirees.

This approach would allow subscrib-

ers to choose specific health insurance providers that they want.

This would become possible when the government solicits bids from private health insurance providers, in which a group of three or more would be selected.

ers to choose specific health insurance providers that they want.

This would become possible when the government solicits bids from private health insurance providers, in which a group of three or more would be selected.

Licensed and practicing doctors, meanwhile, would have all their natural science and other related courses credited, giving them the chance to immediately proceed to taking the program requirements consisting of 47 credits under the Gateway 4 program.

Deleon Guerrero said GESI is the answer to the Babauta administration's dream of making the CNMI a center of education excellence in the region.

"The education sector doesn't only diversify the economy, it also helps insulate the economy from the normal economic ups and downs in tourism and apparel manufacturing industries."

Demesa explained that the education is counter cyclical, "which means that the demand for education rises when other parts of the economy are in periods of decline." She added that GESI "will provide a high quality education to international and local students who want to study in a U.S.-accredited college at a reasonable cost."

DLNR*From Page 1*

Seman said. "I would like to use his expertise."

Seman said that he does not have any special assistant until Hofschneider's employment is formalized. As of yesterday, Seman said Hofschneider's employment documents were still being processed, but the secretary expressed optimism that the process would be completed within the week.

Once the employment is finalized, Seman said Hofschneider's salary range would be between \$38,000 to \$40,000 per annum.

No job vacancy announcement was made for the special assistant position, according to the Office of Personnel Management. Seman said Hofschneider would occupy the position once held by Tim Thornberg, who worked as special assistant to then DLNR secretary Tom Pangelinan.

"There is a request for a waiver of announcement," said OPM director Juan I. Tenorio. "I have to review the findings of my staff."

Tenorio said that the hiring agency has the option to request for the JVA waiver. He added, though, that the request would be subject to his approval or disapproval.

As of yesterday, Tenorio said the OPM's Classification and Compensation Division were reviewing Hofschneider's employment documents.

The DLNR secretary said Hofschneider would be an asset to the department in implementing several major projects, including the planned acquisition of wetlands for wildlife projects.

Seman also said Hofschneider could facilitate sourcing out funds from Managaha landing fees that go to the MPLA's coffers, to help implement additional conservation measures for the island.

The secretary said he would task Hofschneider to work with the department's Division of Land Survey, particularly in setting aside public land that has been designated for the DLNR for use by the CNMI's boy scouts. Other major projects that Hofschneider would be involved in are the Garapan Central Market and the Grotto Rehabilitation project, Seman added.

The processing of Hofschneider's possible employment with the DLNR came amid a recent controversy on the prospective employee's departure from the MPLA's top executive post.

MPLA board chair Ana Demapan-Castro had already appointed a new commissioner for the agency, Edward Deleon Guerrero, sometime last month.

Demapan-Castro initially suspended Hofschneider on July 9 for alleged insubordination. The chair accused the commissioner of wrongdoing when he allowed the Commonwealth Development Authority to alter a requisition document without the board's approval.

The suspension, which was supposed to end on July 29, was extended indefinitely.

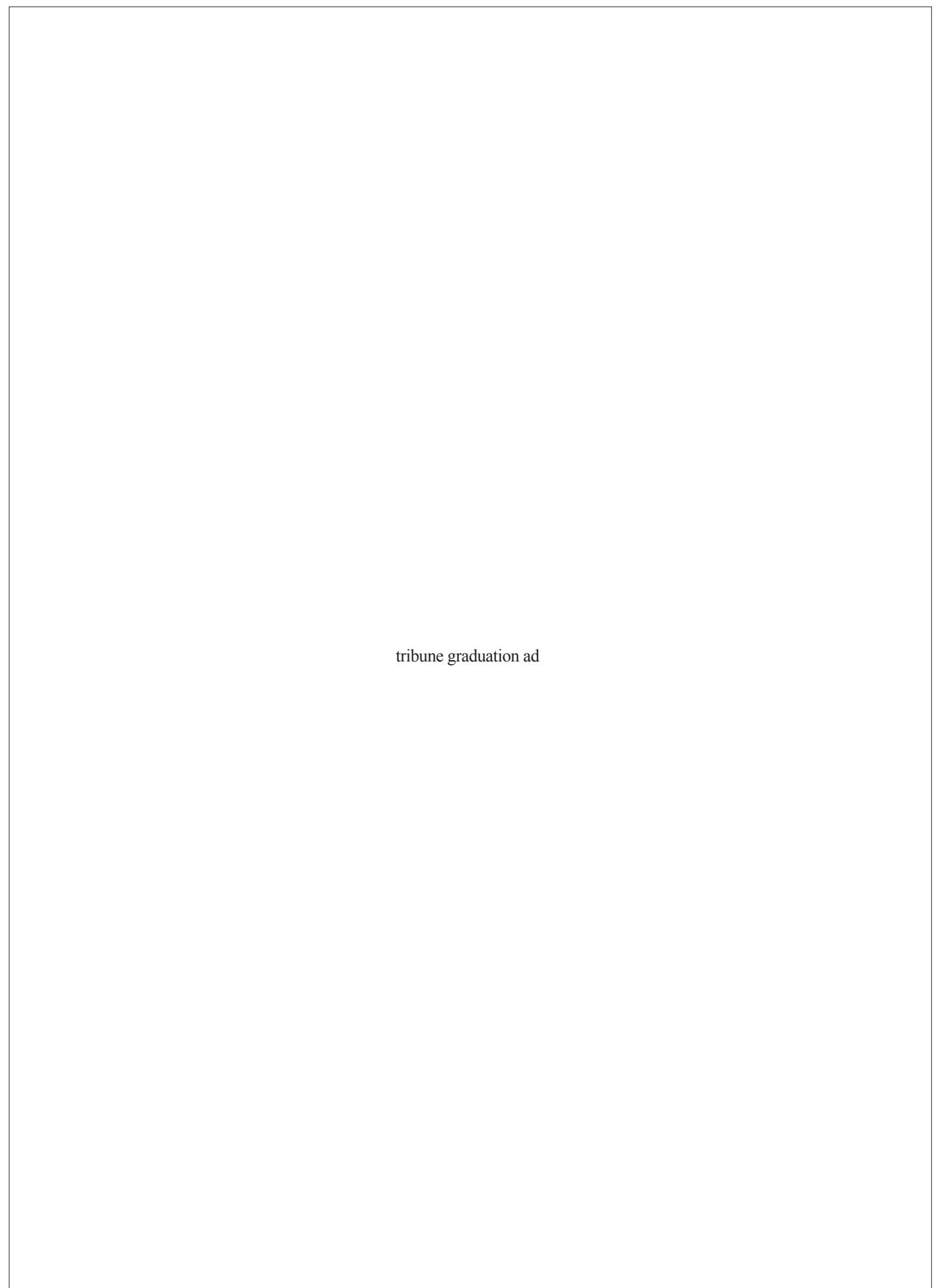
Hofschneider reportedly filed a lawsuit in federal court, challenging Demapan-Castro's actions.

Hofschneider was scheduled to visit the DLNR yesterday to meet with staff and familiarize himself with the department's offices, Seman said.

Business

Asia

World



tribune graduation ad

Overdrive

Lucrative deals on new vehicles expected

Automakers weren't as generous with consumer incentives in October as they were in September, but shoppers can expect a new round of deals as manufacturers, particularly General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., try to end the year with a flurry, analysts say.

Industrywide, incentives averaged \$2,781 per vehicle in October, down 11 percent from the \$3,120 average in the previous month, according to research firm Autodata Corp. Detroit's Big Three automakers far outspent their Asian rivals

- \$3,730 vs. \$1,347 - but continued to lose market share to the foreign brands.

Overall new car and truck sales were off 7 percent in October from a surprisingly strong September, but were up 2 percent from a year ago. October's results topped most forecasts, which anticipated a huge falloff following September's heavy, incentive-induced demand.

Observers say part of the reason for the decline in incentives last month was the arrival en masse of 2005 models, which

generally carry smaller discounts.

At GM, the world's largest automaker, the average incentive outlay last month was \$4,051, the highest of any major automaker but \$289 less than September. The company said Wednesday its October sales were off 5 percent from a year ago and its U.S. market share was 25.4 percent, down from 27.3 percent in October 2003, according to Autodata.

"GM will likely strive for market-share targets at year-end, which we believe will translate into even more deals,

most likely in December," Merrill Lynch analyst John Casesa said in a research report.

Ford fared a little better in October, as its market share for the month was 18.7 percent, better than its 18.4 percent year-to-date rate. Like GM, sales at the nation's No. 2 automaker fell 5 percent, dragged down again by poor car sales.

Casesa said that side of Ford's business should begin to improve with the recent debut of several new models, including a new high-profile sedan. Ford's average outlay



An inspector looks over a 2005 Lincoln Town Car in the customer acceptance inspection area at the Ford Wixom Assembly plant in Wixom, Mich., Friday, Nov. 5, 2004. AP

on incentives per vehicle last month was \$3,425, down from \$3,808 in September.

September, Autodata said. "Ford's car sales have likely bottomed out and should recover following the September launch of the new flagship Five Hundred, which replaces the aging Taurus," Casesa said.

The smallest of Detroit's Big Three, DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group, said overall sales rose 2 percent in October - the 12th time in 13 months it has had a year-over-year increase. Chrysler spent an average of \$3,539 per vehicle on incentives last month, \$89 less than

September, Autodata said.

The American arms of Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co., the top Japanese automakers, each spent less than \$700 on average in incentives last month - \$624 for Toyota and \$698 at Honda.

Yet Toyota and Honda, along with Japanese counterpart Nissan Motor Co., grabbed 35.9 percent of the U.S. market in October, up from 32.4 percent a year ago, according to Autodata. Meantime, the Big Three's share slipped to 56.8 percent from 60.2 percent in October 2003. (AP)

joeten motors
+2 color

SHOP TALK

Run-flat tires

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2004 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, what are the latest offerings in run-flat tires? Are they available for all vehicles? I hear you can go 50 miles at 55 mph on them. Is this true, and who makes these tires?

—Karl E., Shamokin, Pa.

A: Karl, several companies currently offer run-flat tires and are constantly working on run flats for more vehicles, especially SUVs and minivans. The run-flat tire came about because cars like the Chevy Corvette and Plymouth Prowler didn't have room for a full-size spare. Thus, Goodyear gets credit for introducing the first run flat.

There are three distinct types of run-flat tires currently being developed or already on the market: self-sealing, self-supporting and auxiliary supporting. Of the three, self-sealing and self-supporting tires are available today.

Self-sealing tires repair a puncture (up to 3/16 inch in diameter) immediately and permanently. These tires have an extra lining under the tread that is covered with puncture sealant. Many drivers don't even know that they've experienced a puncture. Continental tire offers a ContiSeal brand.

Self-supporting tires feature a stronger inside construction that can temporarily carry the weight of the vehicle, even after the tire has lost all air pressure. These are the "50 miles at up to 55 mph" you refer to.

These tires add layers of rubber between the cord in the sidewall to prevent the sidewalls from folding under and then blowing out, and they require a tire-pressure monitor to warn the driver that he or she is driving on a tire with no air pressure. Companies that make them include BF Goodrich, Bridgestone, Dunlop, Firestone, Goodyear, Kumho, Michelin, Pirelli and Yokohama.

Auxiliary support systems put most of the "run flat" technology on the wheel instead of the tire and are still under development for use in the United States.

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Life & Style

'Incredibles' rakes in an amazing \$70.7M

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“The Incredibles” lived up to their name at the box office as the animated superhero adventure debuted with \$70.7 million in its opening weekend, continuing an unbroken string of hits for Pixar Animation.

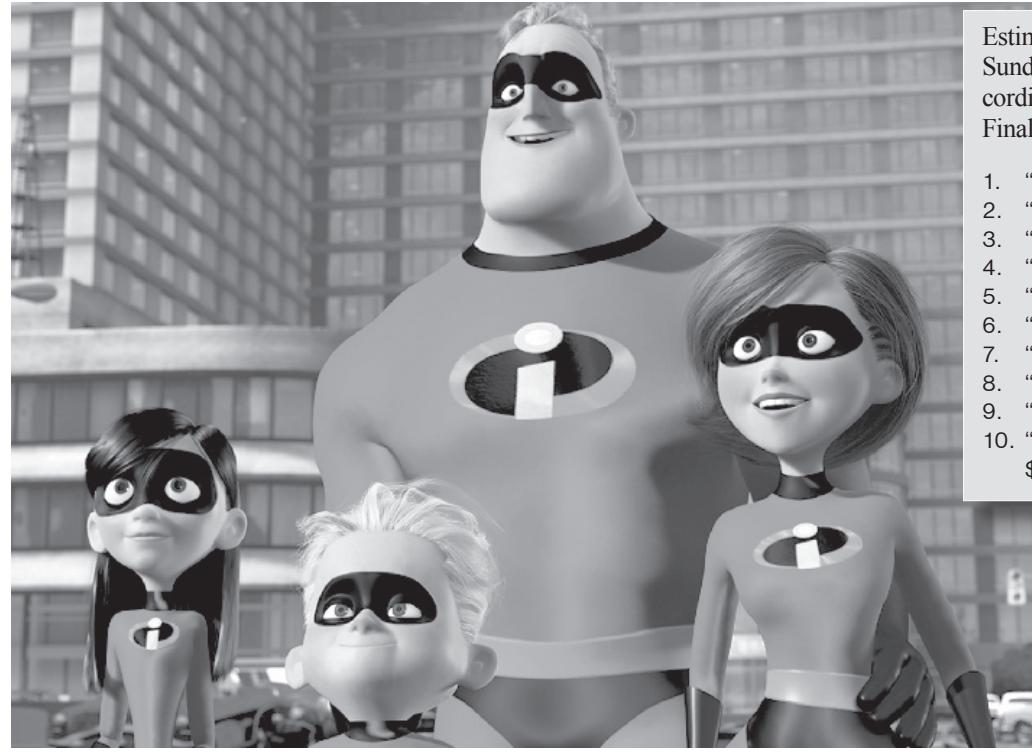
If numbers hold when final figures are released Monday, “The Incredibles” would have the second-best opening weekend among animated flicks, coming in just ahead of Pixar’s 2003 blockbuster “Finding Nemo,” which debuted with \$70.3 million. “Shrek 2” holds the animated debut record with \$108 million.

The horror hit “The Grudge,” the No. 1 movie the previous two weekends, slipped to third with \$13.5 million, lifting its total to \$89.6 million.

“Ray,” starring Jamie Foxx as musician Ray Charles, remained No. 2 for a second straight weekend with \$13.8 million. It has grossed \$39.8 million in 10 days.

Jude Law’s “Alfie,” a remake of the 1960s hit about an incorrigible womanizer, debuted weakly with \$6.5 million, coming in at No. 5.

Despite the big opening for “The Incredibles,” overall Hollywood revenues fell, continuing a box-office slump that has lingered for most of the autumn.



Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **“The Incredibles,”** \$70.7 million.
2. **“Ray,”** \$13.8 million.
3. **“The Grudge,”** \$13.5 million.
4. **“Saw,”** \$11.4 million.
5. **“Alfie,”** \$6.5 million.
6. **“Shall We Dance?”,** \$5.65 million.
7. **“Shark Tale,”** \$4.6 million.
8. **“Friday Night Lights,”** \$3 million.
9. **“Ladder 49,”** \$2.6 million.
10. **“Team America: World Police,”** \$1.9 million.

extend the deal fell apart earlier this year, though there has been speculation the two companies still might partner up again in the future.

“It’s a shame they can’t get this together, because it’s been such a successful partnership,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. “This formula has worked for years, consistently, with every movie out of this Disney-Pixar alliance.”

Pixar has been talking with other studios about distributing its films.

Left to right, Violet Parr, Dashiel “Dash” Parr, Mr. Incredible, and Elastigirl, in Walt Disney Pictures/Pixar Animation Studios’ “The Incredibles.”

The top 12 movies took in \$136.1 million, down 5 percent from the same weekend last year, when both “The Matrix Revolutions” and “Elf” opened.

Playing in 3,933 theaters, “The Incredibles” averaged a whopping \$17,971 per theater, compared to an average of \$2,935 in 2,215 theaters for “Alfie.”

Featuring the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson and Jason Lee, “The Incredibles” tells the story of a family of superheroes pressed

back into action years after they had been forced underground as ordinary suburbanites.

The film drew a mainly family audience, though teenagers and adults without children accounted for about one-third of the crowd, according to distributor Disney.

With stellar reviews, “The Incredibles” maintained the perfect critical and commercial record for Pixar, whose previous hits were “Finding Nemo,” “Monsters, Inc.,” “A Bug’s Life” and

the “Toy Story” movies.

“It’s more important to have a great story and then to use the technology to bring it to life, and they have never lost sight of that,” said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney, which has released the Pixar movies. “They deliver absolutely the best story first and meld it with the most unbelievable technology out there.”

Disney’s deal with Pixar expires after next November’s release of “Cars.” Negotiations to

bizarre and wild to light.

It was in the 1960s when Wolfe made his name in the vanguard of so-called New Journalism, combining fiction-writing styles with his keen reporter’s eye for details. The technique served him extraordinarily well for “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test,” his look at Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters, and “The Right Stuff,” his study of the space program, which won the American Book Award for general nonfiction. “The Bonfire of the Vanities,” Wolfe’s scathing satire of status-hungry New Yorkers in the 1980s, was a top 10 best seller of the decade and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Wolfe said the idea of a college novel interested him because it’s never been explored from the student’s point of view, and because college has replaced the church as a moral touchstone.

These ideas came out muddled, as though he wasn’t quite sure why he wrote the book. He spoke of college as being a breeding ground for political-correctness, but it

can sometimes be a thin veil for the hedonism that goes on at schools.

Wolfe is no stranger to campus life. The Richmond, Va., native is the grandson of a Confederate rifleman — his family’s Virginia ties, on the paternal side, date back to 1710. He attended Washington and Lee University before earning a doctorate in American studies at Yale. He was even in a fraternity.

“The drinking is neither more nor less now. There is the addition of cocaine, a little bit of ecstasy, but I wouldn’t say these things really play any major part on campuses,” he says.

The heroine of the new, 675-page novel is 18-year-old Charlotte Simmons, the pertinacious prodigy of a tiny mountain town in North Carolina who gets a full ride to the venerable DuPont. Charlotte is unbelievably naive, and the novel chronicles her education to the world of college. Once rigid and “moral” in a traditional sense, she matriculates to the world of sex, drinking and materialism as she deals with a frat guy, a jock and a caustic, emaciated roommate.

Tom Wolfe out styling with a new novel

NEW YORK (AP)—Dapper Tom Wolfe likes everything just so. He has perfected the art of being a gentleman, wearing a pressed white suit, of course, with a light blue shirt that matches his eyes and white two-tone shoes. He looks impeccable with his perfectly coifed silver hair, white polka-dot socks and tie, and white handkerchief. Even his spectacles match.

Wolfe has fashioned his career on this meticulous attention to detail and spends years doggedly researching every piece he writes, be it fiction or fact. His new novel, “I am Charlotte Simmons,” is about hedonistic college life and is no exception. With the aid of his children, 24-year-old Alexandra and 19-year-old Tommy, he carefully studied campus life and language. As a result, he can spill slang like, well, a totally awesome cool kid.

“People don’t go around saying ‘Jesus Christ’ as an oath. They don’t say ‘jeez,’ either,” he says, sitting on a beige sofa at his suite in New York’s stately Stanhope Hotel. “The only word that I ever heard coined was ‘awesome.’ As in ‘that’s awesome.’

WALLACE

Harassment victim can fight back by marshaling her facts

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: A female reader, "Humiliated in Birmingham," wrote that a vendor had come to her place of employment and made lewd comments to her. After learning that the vendor would be training her on software she'd be using for her recent promotion, she reported the incident to her superior. Four days later, she was demoted, publicly humiliated, and felt forced to resign.

I am a former human resources manager, Abby, and that woman should know that she was the victim of hostile environment harassment and subjected to retaliation by her employer for reporting it. Most harassment policies prohibit third-party harassment and retaliation.

"Humiliated" should create a timeline of the events that occurred, and then consult a lawyer or visit her state human rights office. The documentation should include when the harassment occurred, where it occurred, and specifically what lewd comments were made by the vendor. It would also be helpful to note what she did when it occurred, such as telling the vendor that it made her uncomfortable or whether she walked away.

She may also want to locate a copy of the company's harassment policy and any relevant information regarding the promotion and demotion, including if anything was in writing. It should also be noted if anyone witnessed the harassment or the public humiliation.

After documenting her story, this agency will likely file a complaint on her behalf with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and will contact her employer to obtain their story about what happened. Since it's doubtful an investigation by the company was completed, and "Humiliated" was retaliated against, the agency will look unfavorably upon this. "Humiliated" may also want to consider what resolution she is looking for, such as being restored to the promoted position and being trained by a different individual.

SYMPATHETIC IN LEAWOOD, KAN.

DEAR SYMPATHETIC: Thank you for your helpful letter. It's one that should be clipped and saved by anyone entering the workforce and anyone who owns a business. Most businesses have sexual harassment policies in writing, but not all do. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Fifty lashes with a wet noodle for specifically recommending a female lawyer to "Humiliated in Birmingham." You dropped the ball. Any decent attorney, male or female, should be empathetic and hard-working in pursuing the case. Unless the person hiring the attorney is uncomfortable with a particular gender, the gender of the attorney should not be a criterion.

DENNIS HUGHES, PLAINFIELD, IND.

DEAR DENNIS: You're right; I was wrong. I apologize for suggesting that a female lawyer might identify more strongly with her situation than a male lawyer. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, was harassed by a vendor at work. The receptionist—a man—witnessed it. He empowered me, and I called the vendor's boss and told him what had happened. It turned out there had been other complaints about the man.

CAMMIE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAMMIE: Thank you for pointing out that when harassment occurs, it's often part of a pattern of behavior.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

'Passion' gets Catholic group's award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and the CBS television show "Joan of Arcadia" were celebrated Sunday at an awards ceremony by a Catholic group founded to honor entertainment projects that uplift and inspire.

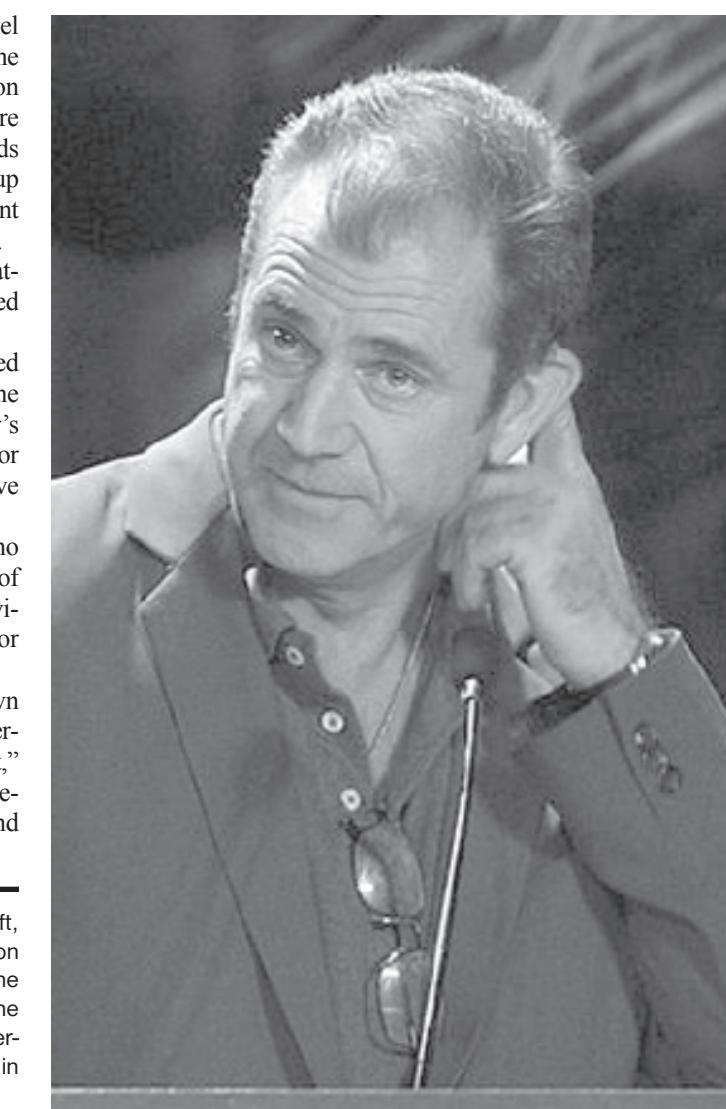
More than 500 people attended the luncheon organized by Catholics in Media.

Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ," presented this year's film award to producer-director Mel Gibson and producer Steve McEveety.

Actor Joe Mantegna, who plays Will Girardi on "Joan of Arcadia," presented the television award to the show's creator and producer, Barbara Hall.

Jane Wyatt Ward, best known for her role as Margaret Anderson on "Father Knows Best," received the lifetime achievement award for her career and charitable work.

Actor/Director Mel Gibson, left, talks about his film "The Passion of the Christ" after accepting the Motion Picture Award during the Catholics in Media Awards ceremony, Sunday, Nov. 7, 2004, in Beverly Hills, Calif.



Barker gives \$1 million to UCLA law school

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Barker is used to handing out prizes as host of the TV game show "The Price is Right." But officials at the University of California, Los Angeles, law school announced last week that Barker has given out a prize of another sort: \$1 million for an animal rights law endowment.

Barker, who has hosted the game show for more than three decades, often advises viewers to spay or neuter their pets.

He said he hoped the endowment would encourage more law students to get involved in protecting animals.

"Animal exploitation happens throughout this country

and elsewhere," Barker said. "Animals need all the protection we can give them."

The Bob Barker Endowment Fund for the Study of Animal Rights Law will pay for teaching, research, seminars and lectures. The effort will be led by UCLA professor Taimie Bryant, who teaches a course in animal law.

Director Robert Zemeckis gets star in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Robert Zemeckis, traveling on "The Polar Express," stopped long enough to pick up a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Zemeckis, who won an Oscar for directing "Forrest Gump," received the 2,268th star Friday.

Frequent collaborator Tom Hanks attended the ceremony along with hundreds of other fans.

"He is, to film, a visionary," Hanks said. "He is what Paul McCartney is to music. Bob is without a doubt the most inspirational example of the true work ethic that is needed in order to make movies in this day and age than any other human being I have worked with or come across."

The director of the "Back to the Future" trilogy, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" and "Cast Away" is known for using pioneering technology to create otherworldly action in his films.

"The Polar Express" is no exception. Zemeckis used motion capture computerization to allow Hanks to play several characters in the fantasy, including a boy, a train conductor, a hobo and Santa Claus. "The Polar Express" was



Oscar winning director Robert Zemeckis poses as he is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Nov. 5, 2004, in Los Angeles.

inspired by the Christmas picture book illustrated by Chris

Van Allsburg. It is set for release Nov. 10.

Howard Keel, star of musicals, dies at 85

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Howard Keel, the broad-shouldered baritone who romanced his way through a series of glittery MGM musicals such as "Kiss Me Kate" and "Annie Get Your Gun" and later revived his career with television's "Dallas," died Sunday. He was 85.

Keel died Sunday morning of colon cancer at his home in Palm Desert, according to his son, Gunnar.

Keel starred in Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals in New York and London before being signed to an MGM contract after World War II. The timing was perfect: He became a star with his first MGM film, playing Frank Butler to Betty Hutton's Annie Oakley in "Annie Get Your Gun."

Keel's size and lusty voice made him an ideal leading man for such stars as Esther Williams ("Pagan Love Song," "Texas Carnival," "Jupiter's Darling"), Ann Blyth ("Rose Marie," "Kismet"), Kathryn Grayson ("Show Boat," "Lovely to Look At," "Kiss Me Kate") and Doris Day ("Calamity Jane").

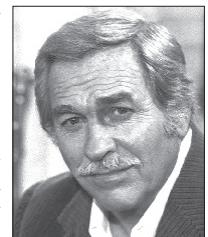
His own favorite film was the exuberant "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

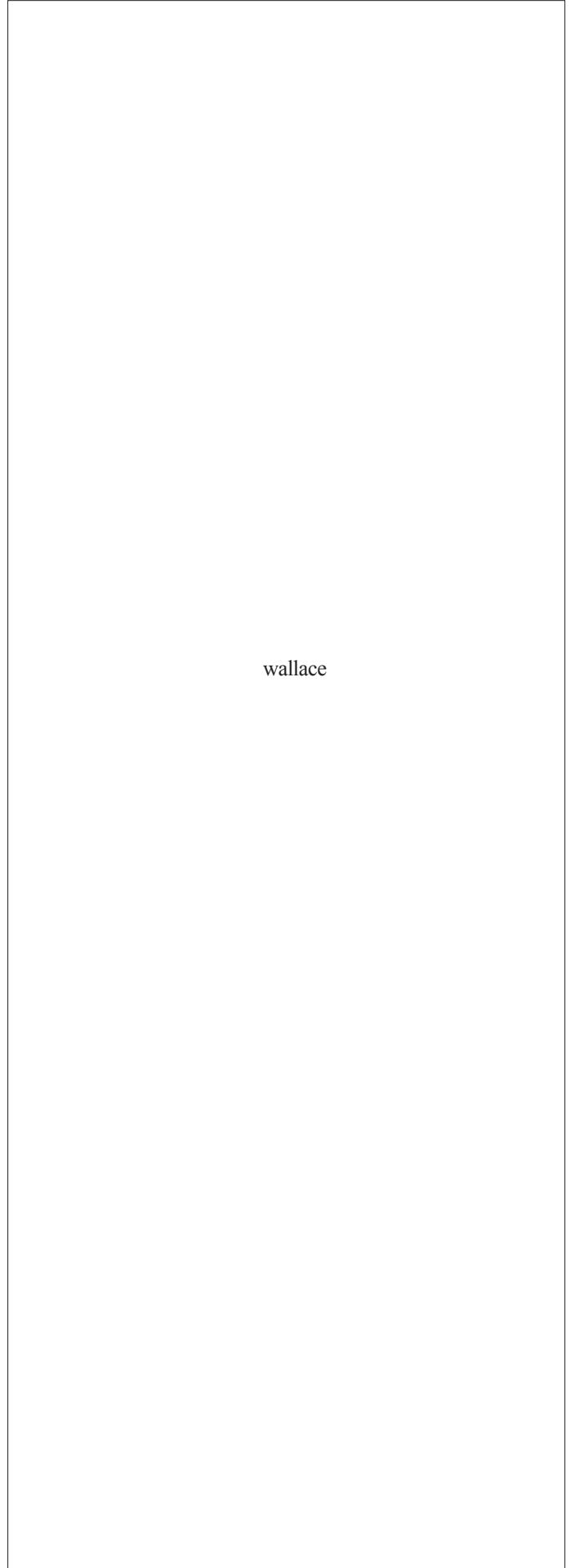
"It was a fine cast and lots of fun to make," Keel remarked in 1993, "but they did the damn thing on the cheap. The backdrops had holes in them, and it was shot on the worst film stock. ... As it turned out, the miracle worker was George Folsey, the cinematographer. He took that junk and made it look like a Grandma Moses painting."

When film studios went into a slump, MGM's musical factory was disbanded. Keel kept busy on the road in such surefire attractions of "Man of La Mancha," "South Pacific," "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

Keel was in his early 60s and presumably nearing the end of his career when he suddenly became a star in another medium.

From its start in 1978, "Dallas" with its combination of oil, greed, sex and duplicity had become the hottest series in television. Jim Davis, who had played the role of Jock Ewing, died in 1981, and the producers needed another strong presence to stand up to the nefarious J.R. Ewing Jr. (Larry Hagman). They chose Keel.





wallace



Pastimes





TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	90	53	.629	-
Boston	86	56	.606	31/2
Baltimore	65	76	.461	24
Tampa Bay	61	80	.433	28
Toronto	59	84	.413	31

Central Division

Minnesota	82	60	.577	-
Chicago	72	70	.507	10
Cleveland	70	73	.490	121/2
Detroit	64	77	.454	171/2
Kansas City	51	91	.359	31

Yesterday's Games

Minnesota 8, Detroit 5
N.Y. Yankees 9, Baltimore 7
Texas 7, Toronto 6
Tampa Bay 7, Kansas City 2
Seattle 2, Boston 0
Anaheim 11, Chicago White Sox 0
Oakland 1, Cleveland 0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	84	58	.592	-
Florida	74	65	.532	81/2
Philadelphia	74	69	.517	101/2
New York	61	81	.430	23
Montreal	59	83	.415	25

Central Division

St. Louis	94	48	.662	-
Chicago	76	64	.543	17
Houston	78	66	.542	17
Pittsburgh	66	77	.462	281/2
Cincinnati	65	77	.458	29
Milwaukee	62	79	.440	311/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	59	.585	-
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NFL STANDINGS

AFC

East

	W	L	T	Pct.
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	1.000
New England	1	0	0	1.000
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000
Miami	0	1	0	.000

North

Cleveland	1	0	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000

South

Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000
Houston	0	1	0	.000
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000

West

Denver	1	0	0	1.000
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000

NFC

East

Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000
Washington	1	0	0	1.000
Dallas	0	1	0	.000

West

N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000
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North

Yesterday's Games

South

West

Final Round

(x-Won on third playoff hole)

x-Vijay Singh	68-66-72-69	275
Mike Weir	68-65-70-72	275
Joe Ogilvie	70-69-69-69	277
Justin Rose	70-70-75-63	278
Hunter Mahan	72-69-69-68	278
Stewart Cink	72-68-69-69	278
Robert Damron	72-71-70-66	279
Mark Hensby	70-69-70-71	280
Jesper Parnevik	69-66-71-74	280
Billy Andrade	67-75-71-68	281
David Sutherland	69-72-68-72	281
D.J. Brigman	67-74-67-73	281
Pat Perez	68-68-78-68	282

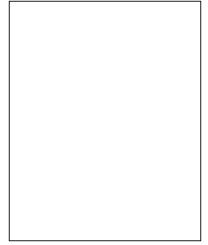
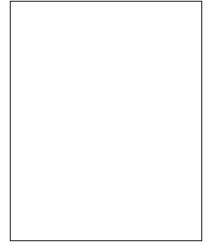
South Canadian Open Scores

BELL CANADIAN OPEN SCORES

Final Round

(x-Won on third playoff hole)

David Branshaw	71-65-75-71	282
Dean Wilson	71-70-69-72	282
Steve Lowery	70-69-70-73	282
Cliff Kresge	69-70-67-76	282
Jose Caceres	72-70-74-67	283
Arjun Atwal	71-67-75-70	283
Kenny Perry	71-67-74-71	283
Glen Day	70-69-70-74	283
Bill Haas	71-71-67-74	283
Casey Wittenberg	73-72-71-68	284
Chris DiMarco	69-71-73-71	284
Craig Perks	70-72-75-68	285
Bob Tway	74-71-70-70	285
Roland Thatcher	72-72-71-70	285
Corey Pavin	73-70-72-70	285
Bill Glasson	72-70-73-70	285
Joey Sindelar	66-73-74-72	285
Brett Quigley	69-71-73-72	285
Chad Campbell	73-68-72-72	285
David Peoples	69-70-73-73	285
Craig Barlow	67-69-75-74	285
Dudley Hart	72-73-73-68	286
David Edwards	72-69-74-71	286
Richard S. Johnson	73-70-71-72	286
Roger Tambellini	71-71-69-75	286
David Frost	73-71-71-72	287
Jason Bohn	73-70-72-72	287
Davis Love III	72-73-68-74	287
Greg Chalmers	71-72-70-74	287
Tommy Tolles		



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
